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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s):	Richard Richley et al.	)	
Application No.	10/518,423	)	
Filed:	December 17, 2004	)	Group Art Unit: 3774
For:	DEVICES AND METHODS FOR MINIMALLY INVASIVE TREATMENT OF DEGENERATED SPINAL DISCS	)	
Examiner:	Alvin J. Stewart	)	Attorney Docket No. <u>TDYNE-305</u>

**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 116**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

This communication is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 27, 2009 on the above-identified application. Reconsideration of this application is requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this document.